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AB 2017 (Hall) – California Youth Leadership Fund FACT SHEET

Sponsor: California State Alliance of YMCAs, Cathy Barankin, (916) 447-7341

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ISSUE

The California YMCA Youth & Government Program (YMCA Y&GP) is a statewide youth educational program annually involving more than 2200 high school students in a year long “hands on” civic experience. Since its inception 62 years ago, the program has successfully used a variety of activities to encourage high school youth become involved, responsible and respected citizens.

As part of the YMCA Y&GP, regional student delegations discuss public policy issues facing the state as well as ways to implement their solutions through the legislative and judicial processes. Teen delegates draft legislation, prepare issue briefs, select governmental positions to role-play, attend statewide training and election conferences and run for various offices and leadership positions. The program concludes with a Model Legislature each February at the State Capitol.

Additional programs such as the African American Youth Leadership Program, the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project and the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project have offered successful civic education and mock legislative programs for years that have developed a new generation of leaders and positively impacted the lives of thousands of California youth.

Unfortunately, in recent years, costs to operate these programs and participant demand for financial assistance has greatly increased making it difficult to maintain and expand these important programs for California youth.

SOLUTION

AB 2017 would allow state taxpayers to voluntarily contribute to the California Youth Leadership Fund through a tax check-off donation on their state tax return. Donations would be used to help finance the YMCA Youth & Government Program, the California Youth Legislature, the African American Youth Leadership Program, the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project and the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project.

Consistent with current efforts to support the California Senior Legislature, this measure will allow California taxpayers to empower young people through important programs that motivate and inspire youth to become active citizens in our state.

SUPPORT

California State Alliance of YMCAs (sponsor)	Children’s Advocacy Institute
Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus	Igbo Development Union of Sacramento
Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project	Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
California Collaboration for Youth	Research and Policy Institute of California
California Legislative Black Caucus	The Safe Cities Foundation
Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project	